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A
L E T T E R
T O
J. K——, *M. D.*
W I T H
An A C C O U N T of the C A S E
O F
Mr. T——N, of the City of O——d.
TO WHICH ARE SUBJOINED,
S O M E O B S E R V A T I O N S
O N T H E
Ulcered S O R E T H R O A T.

By J. S——, *M. D.*

O X F O R D,

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T O

J. K———, M. D.

To Doctor K———.

S I R,

IT is now above a twelvemonth since I was called in to your patient, Mr. T—n, of the New Inn in this City; and though during the short period of our attendance together, there were several occurrences that could not be very agreeable to me, yet I did not think them of consequence enough to induce me to break the harmony I was desirous of maintaining with you, or to lay my complaints before others. In a word, I overlooked them then, and intended to have forgotten them for ever afterwards. But in this, Sir, you have prevented me: For according to the informations I have received, you not only assumed to yourself at the time, all the merit of the

patient's recovery, but you have ever since, and on every *suitable* occasion, represented both my judgment and my behaviour, through the whole of that transaction, in the most injurious light. You have been pleased to say, that I mistook a common quinsy for a malignant sore throat, and hurt the patient greatly by the warm medicines I had ordered for him, during your absence; that I had put aside the medicines we had subscribed together, and as I could not openly avow so base a proceeding, I sent my own prescription clandestinely to another shop; that in short, I had betrayed so much ignorance, and acted with so much dissingenuity as to have sunk my reputation in this place, both as a physician and as a man; and that for your part, you was determined never to be concerned in consultation with me for the future.

This, Sir, is the substance of your accusation; and it is an accusation of so serious a nature, and has been circulated with such inconceivable industry, all round the country, that I have been called upon from various quarters, to vindicate myself in as public a manner as I possibly can. I am sufficiently sensible how insignificant and even ridiculous, the little contentions between a couple of country Doctors about a
private

private case, must appear in the eye of the public, and therefore have hitherto waved the solicitations of my friends upon that head. However, from some accounts I have received very lately, I find it indispensably necessary that I should endeavour to rescue myself out of this torrent of obloquy, either by laying a true representation of the case before those at least, to whom it may have been misrepresented; or by obtaining from you an open disavowal of your having been at all concerned in the propagation of reports, that are as false as they are scandalous.—I wait your answer, and am, Sir,

Your most humble servant,

O——d,

Sept. 26th, 1765.

J. S——.

The preceding letter was delivered more than two months ago, but no answer has been returned, nor is any intended to be returned to it, as I am well informed: it is hoped therefore that the communication of the following narrative requires no farther apology. It is a narrative of facts, without any reflexions or inferences whatsoever; as by facts alone the truth of the reports mentioned

mentioned in the letter must be determined ; and this is the only point at which I aim : for I mean no attack, no rivalling in abuse, no endeavours to raise myself upon the ruins of another's reputation ; but solely to vindicate my own from the unmerited censures that have been so freely thrown upon it. And that such censures have been freely thrown upon it, I am able to prove from sufficient testimony ; while on the other hand, Doctor K—— is called upon to produce one instance of my having said a word upon the subject, until I was obliged to it, in my own justification.

I have annexed Mrs. T—n's account, as a confirmation of my own ; and have also just mentioned the circumstance of Miss T—n's illness, in order to evince more clearly the nature of her father's disorder.

As the subject cannot be very interesting to the reader, I have reduced the narrative into as narrow a compass as I possibly could, and have also endeavoured to make some amends to the generality of those at least who are most likely to be at the trouble of perusing it, by subjoining a few observations upon the ulcered sore throat, the disease in question ; with a view to enable them to distinguish it, in all its stages,

stages, from a common quinsy. The disorder has been already treated of, by several eminent physicians of different countries; and particularly by Dr. Fothergill and Dr. Huxam of this country; and some ingenious hints have also been given by Dr. Wall: It would therefore be useless as well as arrogant in me to dwell upon it here; and at the same time would defeat my intention: for I mean only to concentrate into one striking view, the chief diagnostic symptoms, that they may be the more easily perceived and remembered, and the young practitioner consequently, may be less often at a loss.

And considering how frequently, and how much even at present the disorder prevails, how many lives are lost, and many others greatly endangered, by a continued series of erroneous treatment, or some essential blunder in the beginning, from the disorder's being mistaken (notwithstanding the accurate descriptions that have already been given of it) it is hoped that any attempt to render the symptoms still less equivocal may, especially at this season of general contagion, be not unfavourably received.

A N

ACCOUNT of the PROCEEDINGS

In Mr. T——N's C A S E,

From the time that I was first called in to him.

ON Thursday the 9th of August, 1764, Mr. L——r the Apothecary called on me to desire that I would go with all possible expedition to Mr. T——n of the New Inn, who was dangerously ill of a fever and sore throat, and under Doctor K——'s care. When I came to the patient, I was told that Doctor K—— had been with him that day, and particularly ordered him to be bled; and that after the bleeding, the Doctor went away into the country, and was not to return till the evening of the following day. I was therefore obliged to enter upon an examination of the case by myself; and perceiving from the small running pulse, the intense heat and dryness of the skin, the perpetual restlessness, anxiety, and delirium, the sloughs upon both the tonsils (which Mr. W——d the Surgeon observed also at the time)

that

that the disorder was not inflammatory, but an advanced stage of the malignant sore throat; I desired that the opening draughts which Doctor K—— had prescribed might be put aside for the present, and gave such directions as I then judged to be better adapted to the nature and urgency of the case; not without observing however, in the Doctor's behalf, (though he had been with the patient but about an hour before) that in the course of disorders, circumstances frequently altered, and therefore an alteration in the directions was frequently necessary. The next morning the 10th, I made the patient another visit, at the request of his family: I saw him also in the afternoon, and then I told his wife that I should be glad to meet Doctor K——, after his return from the country, at any hour that would be most convenient to him. Accordingly we met that night, and though I found (notwithstanding my representation of the case) that I had the misfortune to differ from the Doctor entirely in my opinion of it; yet for the sake of maintaining the appearance at least of unanimity, I yielded to the alterations which he proposed in the draughts I had ordered that day, as far as I thought was consistent with the preservation

of our patient. After we had given our joint directions, we agreed to meet again the next morning the 11th, and then prescribing together, we made our appointment for the 12th. In the mean time the Doctor made the patient a visit by himself, and ordered a clyster for him ; and when I called in the evening, I found him so very low, that I judged it necessary for the draughts we had ordered in the morning to be repeated more frequently, and also to be made a little more cordial. On the 12th I was sent for into the country, and did not return till late in the evening ; so that I could not observe my appointment with the Doctor that day. He therefore visited the patient alone ; and at that visit, he at once threw aside the class of medicines which we had been ordering together, and returned to those which the patient had been taking before I was called in to him, and which were of a diametrically opposite intention in every respect ; and then went away without mentioning a word of any appointment for our meeting the next day.

So unexpected a proceeding could not fail of throwing us all into the greatest embarrassment. The patient was unwilling to hazard the Doctor's favour, especially as he lived in
the

the neighbourhood, and some civilities had passed between them ; and yet he was determined not to take a single grain or drop of any new medicine, without the approbation of the other physician. My Situation was not less embarrassing : for though I might think that but little respect was due to the Doctor, on account of his behaviour towards me in my absence ; yet I abhorred all personal disputes, as mean and illiberal, and highly derogatory to the honour and credit of the profession : Neither did I relish being the instrument of animosities between him and a family that was so desirous of living upon a neighbourly footing with him. On the other hand, the life of the patient appeared to me to be at stake, and it could not therefore be expected from the most pacific inclinations, that I should submit to any material alteration which I did not in my own judgment approve of, on so critical an occasion. In this dilemma, I only restored the medicines which the Doctor had rejected, and from whence the patient had, the night before and that day, reaped very signal relief. And as to my directions being sent to another shop, the family only is to answer for it.

Early the next morning, the 13th, Dr. K——

visited the patient by himself, and then repeating the prescription which he had written the day before, he went away for the second time, without saying a word to the family about any future meeting. On the contrary, he provided for the patient in that morning's prescription, till he should visit him again, by ordering the same draughts to be administered every six hours.

From this account, the reader will easily perceive that Doctor K—— had now effectually put an end to all consultation: but as I found that we could not possibly agree in our opinions of the nature and treatment of the case, and as the patient chose to be guided by my directions only, I was the less solicitous upon that head; and therefore continued my visits alone, at his and the family's request, until his health was perfectly re-established.

While Mr. T——n himself was getting better, his daughter, a child of nine years of age, was seized with the usual symptoms of the ulcerated fore throat, and committed to my care. She had been sent for from a school in the country, when her father was judged to be in imminent danger, and was supposed to have caught the infection from him, particularly by going into
bed

bed to him, the day before she was taken ill. She had the disorder to a very violent degree; for a purging soon came on, and a rash broke out all over her body: She was also frequently delirious, and the ulcers in the throat were deep and extensive, as Mr. W—d the Surgeon can testify, who examined the throat often, and brought off large sloughs from the ulcers almost every time they were syringed.

Mrs. T——n's ACCOUNT
 OF THE
 PROCEEDINGS in Mr. T——n's CASE,
 FROM THE BEGINNING.

MR. T——n was seized with a fever and fore throat on Sunday evening the 5th of August, 1764, and was very hot and restless the whole night. On Monday morning the 6th, he sent for Mr. W——d the Surgeon to bleed him. Soon after he was blooded, he grew sensibly worse. He then sent for Doctor K——, who came and prescribed for him; but he continued getting worse in every respect, and had a very bad restless night. On Tuesday morning the 7th, the Doctor visited him again, and prescribed for him; but the disorder still increased, and in the night he was a little wavering. On Wednesday the 8th, the Doctor saw him both in the morning and the afternoon, and prescribed for him both times, but without the desired effect; for on Wednesday night he was worse and more wavering than he had been at all. On Thursday

day

day the 9th, the Doctor saw him again, and ordered him to be blooded. Soon after the bleeding he was convulsed, seemed to be bereaved of his senses, began gathering the bed-cloaths with his hands, and made frequent efforts to get out of the bed. He was then thought to be dying, by myself and my two sisters who were in the room with me at the time. Upon which I sent for Mr. W—d, and Mr. L—r the Apothecary, and one of my sisters ordered an express for his friend Mr. J——n the Printer, who was gone to Kingston Inn. When Mr. W—d and Mr. L—r came, I asked them whether they did not think my husband was dying? and they both said, that he was indeed extremely ill, and in very great danger. I then proposed sending for a physician; and as Doctor K—— was gone out of town, I named to them Doctor S——: They both approved of my proposal, and Mr. L—r went immediately for Dr. S——, who came and prescribed for my husband. The medicines were taken, and Mr. T—n found a sensible amendment that night.

Doctor S—— visited my husband twice the next day, Friday the 10th, and at his second visit he desired to meet Doctor K—— that night,

night, after the Doctor's return from the country. They accordingly both called on Mr. T—n together, and prescribed for him; but he was worse that night than he had been the night before. They saw him again together on Saturday the 11th, and prescribed for him; and in the afternoon Doctor K—— called on Mr. T—n by himself, and ordered a clyster for him, which was administered. Doctor S—— called also that evening, and finding my husband very low, he prescribed for him. That night was more favourable than any of the preceding.

The next morning, Sunday the 12th, Doctor S—— went out of town; so that Doctor K—— visited my husband alone. The Doctor then said, that these *damned* hot medicines were quite improper, and that he would order some that were cooling and more to the purpose. The Doctor then prescribed, and Mr. L—r told me afterwards, that he had orders from Doctor K—— to administer the draughts with his own hands: but as my husband was resolved not to take any new medicines without Doctor S——'s concurrence, especially as he found himself so much better from those he had already taken, he pretended to be asleep when

when Mr. L——r came with the draughts in his pocket.

About nine o'clock that night, Doctor S—— came home from the country, and then called on Mr. T——n; and on being told what Doctor K—— had done, and what my husband had determined not to do, he prescribed for him; and left Doctor K—— should know, and be offended at my husband's not taking any of the medicines he had recommended so strongly, and had given such positive orders to the Apothecary to administer, my husband and I agreed to send Doctor S——'s prescription to another shop; and this was the only reason for sending the prescription to another shop, namely our unwillingness to give any offence to Doctor K——. My husband took the medicines as directed by Doctor S——, and had an exceeding good night.

Early the next morning, Monday the 13th, Doctor K—— called on Mr. T——n, and wrote for him a second time; but the prescription was never delivered to the Apothecary; nor did Mr. T——n take a grain of any medicine whatsoever, from the time Doctor S—— was first called in to him, to the time of his perfect recovery, but what was prescribed by Doctor

S——, either alone, or in conjunction with Doctor K——.

Doctor K—— made no appointment either on Sunday or Monday for meeting Doctor S——. Doctor S—— behaved with all due regard to Doctor K——'s reputation, as far as I ever heard, during his attendance upon my husband: and particularly when he was first called in on the Thursday, and desired the medicines to be put aside that Doctor K—— had ordered, he did not blame any thing that had been done, but said that now some alterations were necessary.

Oxford, 15th October, 1765, Sworn before me,

PHILIP WARD, *Mayor.*

The reader has now had a particular and authenticated account of the proceedings, during Doctor K——'s and my attendance upon Mr. T——n, laid before him, and it must be left to his judgment and candour to determine which of us has had the greatest reason to complain.

SOME OBSERVATIONS

RELATING TO THE

Ulcered SORE THROAT;

With a View to distinguish it, in all its Stages,
from a Common QUINSEY.

THE common quinsy, or inflammatory sore throat, is most frequent in the spring, and the beginning of the summer.

The malignant, or ulcered sore throat, is most frequent in the autumn, and the beginning of the winter.

The sanguine or robust, or dry and firm-fibred constitutions, are most liable to the quinsy; and therefore it seldom attacks children or old people.

The weakly, relaxed, or flabby pituitous habits, in every stage of life, are liable to the other; and as children are mostly of this sort of temperament, they are most commonly attacked by the disorder.

In the quinsy, the patient is first seized with the usual symptoms of an inflammatory fever, and these are soon succeeded by a stiffness in the neck and a swelling in the throat, particularly in the tonsils and uvula, accompanied with a considerable degree of pain in deglutition.

In the other, the patient is seized with the usual symptoms of a fever of the most malignant kind; namely, chills and heats alternately succeeding one another; confusion, giddiness, and pain in the upper or back part of the head, accompanied sometimes by a delirium or sickness with vomiting and purging; great anxiety and restlessness; dejection of spirits, sinking and enervation, and, in a word, an universal indisposition over the whole habit: And these, as in the quinsy, are soon followed by a swelling in the tonsils and uvula, but with considerably less pain in deglutition.

In the quinsy, the feverish symptoms generally abate as the swelling increases; or rather the heat is collected into the throat, while the rest of the body returns to a tolerably moderate temperature.

In the other there is little or no abatement in most of the symptoms I have enumerated.

In the quinsy there is, indeed, a second fever, that rises afterwards, when the disorder is farther advanced ; but this is merely symptomatic, and seldom ascends to any alarming height.

In the other the fever is original, and is of the most rapid and fatal kind, unless proper assistance be soon interposed.

In the quinsy, the swelling in the tonsils, &c. continues gradually to increase to the end of the disorder; so as sometimes to threaten a suffocation.

In the other, the tonsils, &c. are commonly most swelled in a few days after the first attack ; and the swelling afterwards gradually subsides, as the disorder advances towards its most dangerous state.

In the quinsy there is at all times very great pain, and in the height of the disorder, there is the greatest difficulty in deglutition.

In the other, even when the parts are considerably swelled, the patient often swallows astonishingly well, and with no very remarkable pain.

In the quinsy, the tonsils, &c. appear to be very firm and tense, and their surfaces are smooth

smooth and clear all through the disorder, and all the parts in the throat are commonly of a vivid red colour.

In the other the tonsils, &c. appear to be lax and flabby, and their surfaces soon become uneven, and are found to be either ulcered, or patched with white or dusky specks or blotches, that are the rudiments of future ulcers ; and the parts are of a deadened hue, whether red, white, cineritious, brown, or black : for these are the colours they generally assume, and in this order the colours change, as the disease itself becomes more and more malignant.

In the quinsy, there is commonly a continual flux of saliva.

In the other, there is seldom any discharge of that kind.

In the quinsy, an intense heat is felt in the throat, while the rest of the body is in a tolerably moderate temperature, as I have before mentioned.

In the other, the patient seldom complains of any extraordinary heat in the throat ; but the rest of the body often feels as if it was all in a flame.

In the quinsy, the heat is usually lowered by evacuations.

In the other, the heat is usually raised higher by evacuations

In both disorders, there is often a laborious respiration.

That in the quinsy, as it is owing to the swelling in the fauces obstructing the passage of the air to and from the lungs, is generally relieved, but never is increased by evacuations.

That in the other, as it arises from debility in the organs of respiration, is never relieved, but always is increased by evacuations.

The quinsy is very seldom accompanied by a delirium ; and if a delirium ever comes on, it is generally in an advanced stage of the disorder.

In the other, the patient is delirious at times, in every stage of the disorder.

The delirium in the quinsy arises chiefly from a too plentiful afflux of blood to the brain, by the branches of the internal carotid arteries (those of the external carotids, going to the throat, being obstructed) and also from the blood's being accumulated in the brain ; as its vessels cannot discharge their contents

contents freely into those that return the blood to the heart, on account of the respiration's being impeded.

The delirium in the other, is chiefly owing to a corrosive humour that shifts to and fro between the throat and the brain.

Evacuations by bleeding, according to this account, seem to be most proper in the former.

Evacuations by blisters, where the delirium is to be regarded, seem to be most proper in the latter.

In the quinsy there are never any eruptions or discoloration on the skin ; nor is there any tendency to a purging.

In the other, there is generally a flushing or rash upon the surface of the skin, accompanied with a purging ; especially in children.

In the quinsy the spirits are, all along, sufficiently high, and the strength of the constitution is very little impaired ; excepting what may be accounted for, from the great Evacuations, and the low regimen that are usually prescribed for the disorder.

In the other the same extraordinary dejection of strength and spirits that appeared in the beginning,

beginning, continues, in spite of cordials, &c. to the end of the disorder.

In the quinsy the eyes are generally full and vivid.

In the other they are sunk, and their lustre is faded.

In an advanced stage of the quinsy, the voice is commonly shrill and distinct.

In the other, the voice is all along, hollow and broken.

In the quinsy, the pulse is strong and hard from the beginning, and grows stronger and harder every day: nor will *evacuations* easily keep it down or soften it.

In the other, the pulse is rather full than strong, at any time, and it is scarcely ever hard. Its fullness is generally about the beginning of the disorder, and from that time it becomes weaker and weaker every day; nor will *cordials* easily keep it up.

In the quinsy, the crassamentum of the blood is of a strong red colour; is uniform and compact in its texture, and the inflammatory crust upon its surface is usually thick and tough, and of a yellow colour.

In the other, the crassamentum is commonly

of a faint red colour ; is broken in its texture, often shooting, through the intermixed serum, in little branches like moss ; is lax in its consistence, like a weak jelly ; and if there happens to be any crust upon its surface, it is generally thin and filmy, and of a variety of colours.

The quinsy is not at all contagious.

The other is remarkably contagious, when it meets with constitutions that are congenial with it.

These are the principal diagnostick symptoms of the ulcered sore throat, which I have collected together, and put into as clear and strong a light as I could, by contrasting them all along with the symptoms of the disorder, for which it is so frequently and fatally mistaken.

I shall now subjoin to these general observations upon the symptoms, a few cursory remarks relating chiefly to the treatment and appearance of the disorder upon some particular occasions. To enter into any regular discussion upon this head would be foreign to the present design and altogether unnecessary. For if the main difficulty is once got over, namely, the ascertaining the nature of the disorder, the practitioner will seldom find him-
self

self at a loss afterwards ; as the whole of his practice may be comprised within the four following rules ; viz. To administer the antiseptic tribe of medicines, especially the bark, together with cordials and daphoretics as symptoms may occur : To cleanse the ulcers frequently : To check and generally to abstain from all evacuations, excepting perhaps in some very extraordinary cases, during the violence of the first attack : And lastly, to support and refresh the patient often with nourishment, to which the addition of a little wine is generally necessary.

This is now universally known to be the only proper method of proceeding ; so that there is no great hazard of any essential blunder's being committed, when the disorder is not mistaken.

However, I am convinced from my own experience in this and other putrid fevers, that even when the disorder is not mistaken, and when the proper medicines and regimen are consequently recommended, not only cures are protracted, but lives are actually lost, on many occasions, from the practitioners or the nurses not being sufficiently busy. In the case of Mr. T——n, it appears from his wife's account,

that the night in which the ingredients of the draughts were diminished, he was much more restless and feverish than he had been the night before. It is, indeed, scarcely to be conceived how much of both food and physic is necessary in some very bad cases. If the patients are left much above an hour to themselves, they begin to sink, and a night frequently destroys them. On the other hand, when these are administered in a sufficient quantity, there is no disorder that does more credit to the healing art.

I had a female patient in this city, who had the disorder in as violent a degree as I ever knew. The tonsils, uvula, and moveable palate were almost eaten away by the ulcers. The whole alimentary canal was also ulcerated, from the mouth downwards: for she continued to void sloughs and ichor by stool for a week or more after her recovery. Her pulse was but just discernible, and the strokes were not to be counted. Her urine was exactly of the colour of a mixture of foot and water, with a little grumous blood in it; and the room she lay in was all over poisoned with a most intolerable cadaverous stench.

This patient owed her recovery solely to the assiduity of those who were about her. She

was

was incessantly swallowing something or other, both day and night: for besides the nourishment and wine they were frequently plying her with, she took at the rate of two ounces of the bark, along with other ingredients for several days together. Nor could she have been other ways preserved; as upon any length of intermission, she fell off amazingly.

Another circumstance of the greatest importance, for many reasons, is the keeping the ulcers as clean as possible: for the sanious matter is extremely corrosive, and destroys every part that it touches; so that besides the depositions it makes in the throat, it often, by descending down the alimentary canal, produces fresh ulcerations there; at the same time it is apt to stimulate and excite a purging, and nausea or aversion to all nourishment and medicines whatsoever. A considerable quantity of this ichor is also absorbed and conveyed into the road of the circulation, where by its acrimony, it keeps up the delirium, and acting like a ferment, aggravates every other bad symptom. This was the case of the patient I have been mentioning; notwithstanding she was diligently attended by an eminent surgeon in this place,

place, who by syringing and other means, cleansed her throat several times a day.

In the case of a gentleman of this university, the disorder was kept at bay, by frequently cleansing the ulcers only. He was first seized with the ulcered fore throat; and soon after, the gout, to which he was much subject, struck into his stomach with so much violence, that he could not retain a grain of any nourishment or medicine that was given him, for some days. As his constitution had been much reduced before, and as he now laboured under two such dreadful complaints, I was unwilling to reduce it farther by blistering the extremities, in order to bring the gout down from the stomach; and every other evacuation was still more improper. In this situation, nothing remained but to syringe the throat very frequently with a warm antiseptic stimulating gargle; and this alone kept the ulcers from spreading, till by giving him every half hour, a small pill composed of philonium and extract of the bark, with a couple of tea-spoonfuls of usquebaugh, I brought the stomach into better order; and then the cure was compleated by the medicines that happened, fortunately
upon

upon this occasion, to be well adapted to both the disorders.

As both the inflammatory and ulcered sore throat attack different constitutions with different degrees of violence, it may sometimes happen, that the symptoms in the beginning are so slight, as to puzzle the practitioner in determining to which of the two disorders they properly belong. Though if he is but duly attentive to the season of the year, the complexion of the other disorders prevailing at the time, the constitution and history of the patient, the state of the pulse and of the spirits, with the general disposition of the whole habit, he can scarcely be, on any occasion, at a loss. If however, there should at any time be a doubt, it is surely safer to wait (as the mildness of the symptoms will easily permit) until the disorder is more clearly marked; or to treat it as malignant, rather than inflammatory: seeing that in such slight cases, no worse consequences are likely to ensue from an error on one side, than only the hastening an inflamed tonsil the sooner to a suppuration, as Dr. Fothergill has observed: Whereas, on the other side, the error may probably hasten the patient to his grave.

I mentioned above, that when the disorder

der is not mistaken, but is treated properly from the beginning, there is scarcely any that does more credit to the healing art. However there is a particular species of it, that ought to be excepted ; as, I fear, it will rarely be found within the reach of medical assistance. In this species, a swelling in the throat comes on at once, without being preceded by much fever, inflammation, or indisposition of any kind, and in a few hours it rises to its full height, which is sometimes very considerable ; though the respiration or deglutition are not much obstructed by it. This extraordinary swelling is not only one of the first symptoms that appear, but is also the symptom that seems to be of most importance in the course of the disorder: for neither the pulse nor the spirits are so depressed, nor is the patient so much indisposed in other respects, for some time at least, as in the common ulcered throat. On examining into the nature of the swelling, the tonsils, uvula, and moveable palate, especially the last, seem not to be turgid with blood, nor loaded with lymph, or any other humour ; but highly inflated with air, resembling both in colour and consistence, a piece of the lungs blown up. The colour indeed

deed gradually becomes darker and darker during the progress of the disorder, and both the pulse and spirits begin at length to sink, and continue sinking fast, notwithstanding every effort to keep them up. The breath is very offensive from the beginning; though no distinct floughs or ulcers are to be seen: on the contrary, the parts appear to be smooth and slightly lubricated with a little glairy mucus. On the second or third day, a swelling comes on in the face and neck: on the third or fourth day, this swelling generally begins to subside, and is succeeded by a tightness and cramping about the præcordia, and difficulty of respiration; which are the sure harbingers of approaching death: for the patient scarcely holds out a day longer; and soon after death the marks of putrification begin to appear in different parts of the body.

I never had an opportunity of seeing this extraordinary case till lately that I was called to a Lady of distinction in this neighbourhood. But the apothecary to the family informed me that he had attended, both this autumn, and the autumn before, several persons, of different ages, exactly in the same condition. The case, however, must be very rare, for I can-

not find that any similar to it has been mentioned, since the first breaking out of the disorder, in the beginning of the last century. The *angina gangrænosa*, which is particularly described by many authors, and is reckoned in most cases to be fatal, chiefly on account of the situation of the gangrened parts, is only a high degree of inflammation, or an afflux of corrosive humours to the throat, in bad habits, terminating at length in a mortification. But here a compleat *sphacelation* seems to come on at once, in persons who appeared to be in good health and of a sound constitution, but the minute before. The Lady whom I was called to, was in general healthy, and free from all hereditary or constitutional humours whatsoever; as nothing gouty, rheumatic, scorbutic, scrofulous, or maniacal was ever known to belong to the family. She was indeed extremely flabby, and lax fibred, and of a pituitous temperament; and therefore was very susceptible of the epidemical contagion. But barring such an accident, she was likely enough to have lived to a very advanced age. Her mother, who is still alive, is past eighty, and her father was nearly of that age when he died. This Lady happened to walk in her own park rather later

ter than usual in the evening before she was taken ill; and finding the next morning a fullness in the throat, she was a little alarmed; especially as the ulcered fore throat had been in the family this season, and still rages in the neighbourhood. The apothecary was therefore sent for; and as soon as he perceived the fungus-like emphysematous swelling in the parts, he desired that I might be called to her immediately. He had given her before I came, a draught composed of the bark and cordials, which happened to be in the house, and laid a couple of blisters behind the ears; and as soon as I arrived, I advised that another blister should be applied to the nape of the neck, and that the bark should be given every two hours, in as great a quantity as could well be taken. Other antiseptic medicines, especially the vitriolic acid in different forms, and cordials were also frequently administered. She went on regularly in this method, and took at times a proper share of nourishment. She also sat up the greatest part of each day; and tho' neither the pulse nor the spirits were high, yet they were far from being so low, for some time at least, as they are found to be in the usual state of the disorder. The puffiness of the

parts kept nearly at the same height from the beginning; but changed gradually from the variegated appearance they had at first, to a more uniform dark hue. On the second day the face began to swell. The blisters that had been applied behind the ears, rose and discharged plentifully: but that which was applied a few hours afterwards to the nape of the neck, scarcely rose at all. On the third day, the swelling in the face began to subside, a difficulty of respiration, &c. came on, and on the evening of that day she died; and before the next morning, the body was in many parts quite putrid.

As this extraordinary species of the disorder was new to me, I was desirous of being farther acquainted with it, and soon afterwards I was favoured by the same apothecary, with an opportunity of seeing two together in one family that were seized with it. There were three in the family taken ill one after another; viz. a boy of five years of age who had the common ulcered throat, in a very violent degree, and was extremely feverish, as usual, but recovered; a girl aged about nine, and a lad aged about thirteen, who were struck with what may be called the *sphacelated throat*,
and

and both died; though neither had the disorder to such a height as the lady I attended: for the palate was not so much inflated, nor were they so much other ways indisposed. The girl was sitting up in the bed, and the boy was walking carelessly about the room when I visited them. There was something particularly affecting in seeing them, as it were under sentence of death, and all the while so easy in their condition, feeling little, and apprehending nothing.

When I came away from the house, I desired the apothecary to inform me by letter of the progress and event of their disorder; and in a few days after, I received the following account from him.

S I R,

Saturday morning.

ONE of my fore throat patients died on Tuesday night, after you saw them; viz. the girl who was taken ill the Friday before. The boy whose death we apprehended (as the case was certainly the same with the girl's and lady ——'s, though the palate was not so very violently inflated) is still living, and I think is likely to recover. The most
mortified

mortified parts of the tonfil, uvula, and palate, which you saw on Tuesday, began to separate on Friday morning. I then took the opportunity of rubbing the parts with a mop dipped in a sharp deterfive gargle, and large thick sloughs came off in the night, and have continued to separate ever since. Upon this promising appearance I gave two scruples of the bark in three spoonfuls of the decoction every hour, instead of every two hours, which was the interval before, and applied to that side of the neck which was most swelled, a warm digestive over a blister I had laid on, and theriaca round it. This morning a large discharge from the blister has sunk the swelling, and the colour all around is of a kind red. The boy's pulse is mended, his eyes look brisker, and both yesterday and this morning he had a stool with a great quantity of sloughs in it, like those that are discharged by mopping his throat. To-morrow or monday morning I shall give him a few grains of rhubarb, as I think his strength will bear it. He takes his medicines and nourishment well, and I hope in two or three days to send you an account of his being perfectly recovered.

I am, Sir, &c.

The next letter is as follows :

S I R,

Tuesday night.

NOtwithstanding I flattered myself with the hopes of the boy's recovery, from the many favourable symptoms that appeared on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday; to wit, the unexpected separation in the throat, and frequent discharge afterwards of large thick black sloughs, or rather pieces of rotten flesh; a stool each morning, loaded with sloughs; a large and digested discharge from behind the ear, and down that side of the neck which was most swelled, and of a darkish colour; the change of this colour to a more healthy looking red; a better pulse for two days; a brisker eye; the breath too much less offensive; the urine depositing freely a lateritious sediment: yet on Sunday afternoon, he began to fall off; declined taking his medicine or using his gargle, and complained of a tightness and fore-ness all the way down his breast to his stomach, which increased upon him more and more; and on Monday afternoon about Three o'Clock, (the ninth day of his disorder) he died.

I am, Sir, &c.

Since

Since I received the above letters, I desired the same apothecary to send me what farther information he was able to procure upon the subject ; as this malignant species has prevailed chiefly in that side of the country where he lives, and he had also attended several persons this season and the season before, who were seized with it. He was so obliging as to transmit to me the following Particulars.

S I R,

THE ulcered fore throat has raged very much in this part of the country, both this autumn and the last, and every now and then some were seized with the same mortified kind with lady ——'s. In the Bartons, which compose only one small parish, upwards of twenty children were cut off by one or the other of them during the autumn last year ; and I know of three at Tackley and as many at Woodstock, who died this season of the malignant kind. I have heard of several others dying ; but as I did not attend them myself, I can give no certain accounts of them. I attended at the same time, at least a dozen in the common ulcered throat at Tackley, and they all did well. In the Middle Bartons I attended

attended four children together in one family who were all seized with the mortified sore throat, and they all died. I saw three of them the first day they were taken ill, and the palate was blown up in the same manner with lady ——'s, and in twenty-four hours was covered with an ash-coloured mucus; and in twenty-four hours more, was quite black and mortified. The other symptoms succeeded pretty much in the same manner as in lady ——'s case; none of them lived beyond the sixth day, and scarcely any so long. After death, their necks and breasts also changed from a dark red colour to a blackish or mortified appearance. No evacuations were used from the beginning, excepting that I applied a blister and gave a gentle vomit to two or three of them, and a few grains of rhubarb, as a preparative to the bark. Besides giving the bark and cordials, I applied warm cataplasms to their throats made of rue and chamomile flowers boiled in vinegar and water, with an addition of camphire, and I made them frequently inhale the steams of contrayerva, myrrh, and chamomile flowers with camphire, boiled in vinegar and water also. One of these children, a boy, threw off a great quantity of the

mortified parts, which gave me some hopes of his recovery, but he died in a few days after.

Upon loosing four children in one family, by the same disorder, I advised the giving to two children, a boy and a girl, who were always among the diseased, a single puke, and after that, a bark draught three or four times a day ; and to drink only port wine with a very little water in it. They both however caught the Infection ; but they both recovered. The girl had indeed only the ulcered sore throat ; but the boy's case was clearly of the malignant kind : for he had the same swelling in the palate, without any ulcers, and much the same symptoms in the course of the disorder with the rest who died of it ; though in a more moderate degree. This boy had no blisters applied to his neck or back ; and I think I can recollect, that those who were blistered, died the soonest. The parts that were mortified separated very freely ; by which, tho' he might save his life, he lost his voice for some time, and almost the power of deglutition : for a great part of the liquors especially, which he drank, returned by his nostrils. But he has since got pretty well in all respects. This is the only one that I ever heard of, that recovered

recovered from the mortified kind of fore-throat ; and I am pretty certain, that both he and the girl owed their preservation to the method in which I treated them, before they were taken ill. I am, Sir, &c.

The above is all that I have been able to learn of this extraordinary species of the disorder; and though I have not had opportunities of examining it sufficient to furnish materials for an accurate description; yet I could not help laying the present, imperfect as it is, before the public; in order that those of the profession who are unacquainted with the case, may be in some measure prepared, and have time to consider of more proper means than have been hitherto used, either for preventing or encountering it.—I shall only observe, upon this occasion, that as it must be of the greatest importance to hasten a separation of the dead from the living parts, as soon as possible, and as that is most likely to be effected by raising and enforcing the circulation (especially in the phlegmatic constitutions, which are most susceptible of the contagion) the warmest cordials seem to be more peculiarly adapted to this,

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than

than to any other species of the disorder : At the same time, this inward effort towards a separation may be possibly assisted by external applications ; particularly by often fumigating the parts with steams from the warmer balsams, or from the seeds or bark of vegetables, containing their hot essential oils, or by rubbing the parts with the oils themselves. But as to caustics or scarifications, the older physicians in the last century have condemned them from finding, in cases somewhat similar to this, that they were highly prejudicial.

The bark seems not to be so essentially necessary here, as in the common ulcered throat ; at least in the beginning : for as the parts are sphacelated on the very first attack, and till these are thrown off, the disorder hurries on in the most precipitate manner, to its fatal catastrophe, I am afraid that the bark, or any other merely bracing or antiseptic medicines will be found too tardy in their operations for so rapid a disorder. After indeed that the separation is completed, the bark may be plentifully added to cordials, with the greatest propriety ; as the case is to be considered, in that stage, as being only a very malignant degree of the common
ulcered

ulcered throat, and to be treated, in every respect, exactly in the same manner.

I shall now leave this pestilential case, at least for the present, and proceed to make an observation or two more relating to the disorder, as we most commonly find it.

The ulcered sore throat sometimes engrafts itself upon other fevers of the putrid kind; or rather the fever runs thro' some of its stages, before the swelling or ulcers make their appearance. But as these fevers are usually accompanied by several of the symptoms which I have already recited, an attentive observer will seldom find himself in want of the principal diagnostic, the ulcers, to direct his practice properly from the beginning.

There is much greater hazard of his being led into an error, when the disorder supervenes upon fevers that set out with the usual marks of inflammation: for as these require, for the most part, plentiful evacuations, and a cooling antiphlogistic treatment, if a swelling in the throat, attended by some degree of pain and difficulty in deglutition, should happen to come on in the course of the disorder, he may, if not sufficiently upon his guard, be apt to consider this additional complaint, as an argument for repeating the
evacuations,

evacuations, and for pursuing the antiphlogistic regimen, in general, with greater rigour ; and by so doing, he will most probably lose his patient.

The fevers that are here principally meant, are those in which the inflammation is chiefly seated in the integuments, and does not reach to the subjacent cellular membrane, and which consequently seldom terminates in a suppuration. For in these fevers, the corrosive humour that first excited the inflammation, either passes off thro' the pores of the integuments (if the parts inflamed, do not previously mortify) or is reabsorbed into the course of the circulation, and thence is thrown upon some other part of the body ; exciting different diseases that are differently denominated, according to the symptoms, or the structure, functions, and situation of the parts on which it is thrown. Such a metastasis or transition of the corrosive humour, producing the ulcerated sore throat, I have particularly observed in fevers of the erysipelatous kind ; especially when the inflammation has been seated in the neighbourhood of the throat, (as is most commonly the case in these fevers) and after the tone of the stamina, the crasis of the blood, and
force

force of the secretions had been broken by the preceding evacuations.

Doctor Sydenham observes in the introduction to his history of epidemical diseases, that in a very sickly year, the particular disease which happens to be most prevalent about the autumnal equinox, characterises the constitution of that year : for it clearly shews the ascendancy it has attained, by the other diseases that occur accommodating themselves, as far as their nature will permit, to its own particular disposition. As the observation is of the greatest and most extensive importance in practice, and is more strongly and clearly expressed and exemplified in the author's own words, than can be well done in any other, I shall here transcribe the whole section, before I make my application of it, and beg leave to recommend it to the practitioner's attentive perusal and frequent recollection.

“ Porro, quod sedulo advertendum, quum plures aliquot horum morborum eundem fatigent annum, unus eorum aliquis reliquorum praedominio potitur, caeteris in ejus quasi ditio-
nem redactis, & parcius id temporis saevientibus, ita ut illo augefcente imminuantur hi, eodemque

demque rursus imminuto, mox recrudescent. Atque ita vicissim mortales laceffunt, prout anni genius & sensibilis aëris temperies huic aut illi magis suffragantur. Qui vero morbus circa æquinoctium autumnale maximopere furit & cumulatissimam edit stragem, totius anni constitutioni nomen impertit suum; quisquis enim fuerit morborum, qui ea tempestate prae caeteris invaluerit, principatum omnium qui isto anno invadunt obtinuisse facile deprehendetur, cujus ingenio epidemici quotquot sunt *σύνχρονος* se accommodant, in quantum eorum fert natura: v. gr. cum *Variolæ* eo tempore latissime depopulantur, febris toto anno sparsim oberrans ejusdem plane inflammationis est particeps, quae variolas parit. Uterque nempe morbus ad eandem fere normam adoritur, maximaque inter maxime propria utriusque symptomata intercedit cognatio, (excepta variolarum eruptione, & reliquis quae ab illa pendent) ut ex ingenti illa tum ad salivam excernendam propensione, in qua utrique convenit, abunde constat. Pariter, cum *Dysenteriae* dicto tempore praecipue fuerint grassatae, febris quae eo anno infestat earumdem indolem non leviter aemulatur, (nisi quod illae causam morbificam per sedes eliminant, &

pauca

pauca alia exinde nascantur symptomata,) quod tum à consimili utriusque morbi insultu, tum etiam, quod utroque malo correpti, aphthis similibusque invicem symptomatis admodum sint obnoxii, satis evincitur. Et sane *Dysenteria* de qua agitur, ipsissima illa febris est; hoc tantum discrimine, quod introvertetur, & in intestina se exonerans per eadem viam sibi faciat. Notandum autem est, Epidemicorum illum principem, qui sub æquinoctio autumnali, ceu rupto aggere torrens, omnia straverat, ingruente hyemis frigore intra suum se alveum condere; cum ex adverso epidemici inferioris ordinis, qui sub eo merentur, tunc temporis praesertim ingravescant & rerum potiantur, donec dictus anni princeps eorum vires denuo frangat & deleat nomen."

This is the whole of the observation, and the truth of it has been strongly confirmed and illustrated this very season, in which the ulcered sore throat has raged so universally. For most of the fevers that have for some time appeared, have been in many of their symptoms remarkably similar to it, and have yielded to the same method of treatment that it requires. A low quick pulse, a great depression of spirits,

confusion or giddiness, slight nocturnal delirium, sickness, tendency to purging, eruptions, or flushings upon the skin, &c. have been the usual concomitants of the fevers of the season; and neither the nervous nor diaphoretic tribes of medicines (much less evacuations or the antiphlogistic treatment) have been found so successful as those medicines that are warm, cordial, and antiseptic.

T H E E N D.